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THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC.

WORLD'S 1904 FAIR

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NINETY-FIFTH YEAR.

ST. LOUIS, MO., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1903.

PRICE

In St. Louis, One Cent.
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CONFESSED SLAYER OF FIVE WOMEN PITEOUSLY BEGS FOR PROTECTION.

Alfred Knapp, in Jail at Hamilton, O., Fears That Mob Will Avenge His Crimes.

GIVES DETAILS OF MISDEEDS.

Last Victim His Third Wife, at Hamilton, His Second Wife, at Cincinnati, Also Having Been Murdered.

DECLARED SANE BY PHYSICIANS

They Assert That He Is Simply a Degenerate of the Most Pronounced Type—Other Crimes Are Laid at His Door.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.
Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 26.—Alfred Knapp, arrested in this city yesterday, suspected of only one murder, that of his wife, at Hamilton, O., lies in the Butler County Jail at Hamilton this afternoon, self-confessed, the most depraved criminal run to earth since the crimes of H. H. Holmes were laid bare in 1892, and that arch criminal was hanged at Philadelphia.

This afternoon Knapp had coolly admitted the following murders, and the Hamilton police believe that there are more to come:
Emma Littleman, killed in Cincinnati lumber yard, Jan. 21, 1891.
Mary Eckert, a child, strangled to death opposite the Cincinnati Y. M. C. A., August 1, 1894.

Jennie Connors Knapp, his second wife, murdered in Cincinnati, and thrown into the canal there, August 7, 1894.
Ida Gebhard, a child, assaulted and murdered in West Indianapolis, July 19, 1895. Her body was found several days later in a barn in West Indianapolis.

Hannah Goddard Knapp, his third wife, murdered at Hamilton, O., and her body thrown into the Miami River, December 22, 1899.

WAS SERVED FIVE PRISON SENTENCES.

In addition to these awful crimes, Knapp has served five prison sentences, three for larceny and two for assault. He has served two terms at Jeffersonville, one at Columbus, O., one at Joliet, Ill., and was at Michigan City, to which he was sent from Indianapolis in 1896 for a brutal assault on Bessie Drapier, a child.

Since his return to this city in December he has, the police feel sure, been guilty of two barn-burnings. When he was con-



HANNAH GODDARD KNAPP.
The Hamilton, O., wife of Alfred Knapp, whom he murdered last December, throwing her body into the Miami River.

victed for the Drapier assault he threatened to set even with every one concerned in his conviction.

Ex-Sheriff Womack, then Sheriff, gained his identity. He had been recently burned, and several thousand dollars' worth of fine horses and imported cattle were lost to death.

At Boardman was one of the jurors who convicted him. His barn was burned about six or seven weeks ago.

Almost every month to the long list of crimes laid to the man's door.

THIRD WIFE FEARED SHE WOULD BE KILLED.

Hannah Goddard Knapp, the murderer's third wife, called at the office of Lemon Reinhold, an Indianapolis attorney, last October, and asked him to bring divorce proceedings for her. She said she desired her husband would murder her, as he had made threats. He told her she had not lived in Indianapolis long enough for a divorce case to be filed in the local courts.

Knapp told his story to-day deliberately without apparent emotion, except when he referred to the possible result of his confession and spoke of dying in the electric chair. After his confession he admitted that he had repeatedly attacked women and killed some of them. He said he met the Tippleton child in the lumber yard, attacked her, and choked her to death when she made an outcry.

"I went into the room with the Eckert girl, sat down with her and attacked her. She cried, and I strangled her with a towel and hurried from the house."

"I was mad at my wife, Jennie Connors Knapp, when I killed her. We were walking along Liberty street. I sat her down under the bridge, on pretext of desiring her to death. I deny that I poisoned her. I never told any one I did. After she was dead I threw the body into the canal."

"Ida Gebhard I killed, but my memory is not clear as to what I did, and I cannot tell what made me kill the other people. I could not help it. Some kind of a desire to kill took hold of me and I could not resist the temptation to kill. I am very sorry for my crimes, but now I hope they will be easy with me."

After the confession a formal charge of murder in the first degree was filed.

CONTRADICTION HIMSELF.

Knapp is contradictory in his statements, for at times he says he and his wife quarreled and at other times he says that he does not know why he killed her, as they had no trouble. Describing the murderous deeds to-day to Mayor Bosch, he said:

"Why I killed her I will never know, for

Continued on Page Two.



ALFRED KNAPP.

Who confesses that he has killed five women, two of whom he had married. He asserts that he does not know why he committed the crimes, and the police of Hamilton, O., and at Indianapolis consider him the most cold-blooded murderer the country has known since H. H. Holmes was executed in Philadelphia.

KNAPP TELLS FOURTH WIFE HE EXPECTS LIFE IMPRISONMENT; SHE SAYS SHE STILL LOVES HIM.

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 26.—Anna Gambel Knapp, the fourth wife of Alfred Knapp, received a letter from her husband to-day, evidently written after his confession to the Hamilton authorities last night. It says, in part:
"My Dear Little Wife: I will drop you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. It looks very dark for me, and so we will have to expect the worst. I don't know what they will do with me, but I expect it will be life in prison at Columbus, O., as they are on the track of Hannah. They have not found her body, but may find the time you get this letter."
Mrs. Knapp said she did not know about the Hannah mentioned in the letter, as her husband had never spoken to her of the woman. She added:
"He loves me and I love him. All I am afraid of is that they will kill him in the electric chair. If they send him to the Penitentiary it won't be so bad, because I can go and see him once in a while."

LANDSOWNE AND FRANCIS TALK ABOUT THE FAIR AT DINNER.

British Foreign Secretary, Who Will Appoint King Edward's Royal Commission to the Exposition, Receives Visitor at His Home and Shows Liveliest Interest in Great Enterprise and the Part England Is to Play Therein—Work in London Completed.

MAY GO TO BERLIN TO BE PRESENTED TO THE KAISER.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE REPUBLIC.

London, Feb. 26.—President Francis of the St. Louis World's Fair to-day dined with Lord Lansdowne, British Foreign Secretary, at Lansdowne House, Berkeley square. Several other members of the British Government were present, and the plan and scope of the St. Louis World's Fair and the part therein that Great Britain is to play were discussed with much animation.

It will be Lord Lansdowne's duty to appoint the Royal Commission to the St. Louis World's Fair, which, it is understood, King Edward, has decided upon. This matter was talked over by the Foreign Secretary and Mr. Francis and the understanding was that the Royal Commission should be announced at an early date.

Lord Lansdowne displayed the liveliest interest in the progress made by the St. Louis World's Fair, as well as securing from King Edward and the foremost members of the Government assurances that Great Britain will take a prominent part in the big fair in 1904.

Governor Francis will remain in London to-morrow, but he is yet undecided whether to sail on Saturday or make a trip on the Continent. He may go to Paris, and possibly Berlin.

Should he go to the latter capital it is very probable he will be received in a special audience by the Kaiser, who is taking the greatest interest in the Exposition.

The King's announcement that he intends sending the late Queen Victoria's jubilee presents to St. Louis is of infinite importance. This collection is really most wonderful. Its intrinsic value is placed at more than \$1,000,000. It comprises gifts sent from all quarters of the world to the late Queen-Empress, those from Indian Princesses being particularly magnificent.

They consist largely of inlaid work of different kinds, the inlaying being mostly done with splendid jewels. Some of these had been the heirlooms of reigning Princes and many have histories more gossamer than pleasant.

BRITISH BUILDING ASSURED.

In the collection are also casquets which originally contained addresses from the principal cities of the United Kingdom. Some of these also are very beautiful, but, as a rule, have no jewels inlaid, and rely for their beauty on artistic chased work.

The jewels which were presented to the Queen by the royal family are included in the collection. It contains also wonderful products of the lacemaker's art.

The fact that Great Britain will send these rare and costly gifts is taken as a sure indication that a British building will be erected, wherein this collection, together with other valuable Government exhibits, can be placed.

Leading Topics in To-Day's Republic.

THE SUN RISES THIS MORNING AT 6:37 AND SETS THIS EVENING AT 5:50.

WEATHER INDICATIONS.
For St. Louis and vicinity—Rain or snow; moderate temperature.
For Missouri—Rain Friday, possibly turning to snow and colder in west Saturday fair.

Page.
2. Urges New Building for Blind Asylum.
3. Democrats of Southern Illinois Win Fight.
4. Smoot Accused of Being a Polygamist.
5. Relatives to Share in J. H. Barr's Estate.
6. Author of Gatling Gun Dies Suddenly.
7. City Hall Stenographers Against Splitting.
8. Society Men Aspire to Become Delegates.
9. Purchase of Frisco Accepted Fact.
10. Defense of the Independent Woman.
11. Editorial.
12. Session of Small Affairs Opens.

1. Allen Pupils Quickly Acquire American Ways.
2. Bidding Was Low on Cronin's Lots.
3. Settlement in Six Districts.
4. Jessie Jarboe Was Beaten a Neck.
5. Bowlers Amend Constitution.
6. Asks for Receiver for Kinloch Track.
7. Lord Barrington's Deposition Taken.
8. France Will Open Office in St. Louis.
9. Corbett-Hanlon Fight a Draw.
10. Council Rejects Fitzgerald's Charges.
11. Republic "Want" ads.
12. Birth, Marriage and Death Records.
13. New Corporations.
14. Rooms for Rent Ads.
15. Summary of St. Louis Markets.
16. Corn Closes Higher on Moderate Buying.
17. Wall Street Indifferent to Railroad Deals.
18. Lightning Issues Lower.
19. Strength in Corn Adds Grains at Chicago.
20. East Side News.
21. Millions Lost in Cincinnati Fire.
22. No Receiver for Ryan's Trust Company.
23. Phenomenal Texas Storm Is Ended.

LOCAL CAPITALISTS WITNESS ERUPTION OF MEXICAN VOLCANOS

Breckinridge Jones Writes of Seeing Mount Colima Pouring Forth Clouds of Smoke.

PARTY TWENTY MILES AWAY.

Time Prevents St. Louis Men From Going Nearer the Mountain.

PEOPLE ARE SEEKING REFUGE.

Frequent Disturbances Continue and Great Loss of Life and Property Is Reported—Much Anxiety Is Felt.

SAW VOLCANO'S SMOKE.

Excerpt from letter received from Breckinridge Jones:
Mexico, Feb. 22.—Thursday we were within twenty miles of Mount Colima, which was emitting great clouds of smoke and flames. It is a volcano 13,000 feet high, and the day before we could see it a terrific eruption occurred, the first in many years. Sorry that we were unable to get nearer, but owing to lack of time we were compelled to go on to the City of Mexico. BRECKINRIDGE JONES.



BRECKINRIDGE JONES.

The foregoing communication, received yesterday from Breckinridge Jones, first vice president of the Mississippi Valley Trust Company, sets at rest the uneasiness that has been felt by the friends and relatives of the St. Louis capitalists who are on a tour of inspection over the Mexican Central Railroad.

It was known that the party were in the vicinity of Mount Colima at the time the tremendous eruption occurred, and it was feared that they were caught in the disaster.

The members of Mr. Jones's family state that they have heard several times from Mr. Jones lately, and he states that all of the party are well, and not even discomforted by the earthquake which preceded the volcanic eruption. Telegraphic advices from the City of Mexico indicate that the party is ready to depart for Southern Mexico.

The following are in the party:
Breckinridge Jones, first vice president of the Mississippi Valley Trust Company; J. C. Van Blarcom, first vice president of the National Bank of Commerce; H. Clay Pierce, president of the Waters-Pierce Oil Company; Eben Richards, vice president of the Mexican Central; W. L. Moyer, president of the National Shoe and Leather Bank of New York; E. Foster, a capitalist of Boston and a director of the Manhattan Railway Company of New York; J. J. Mitchell, president of the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank, and Levi Z. Letter of Chicago and C. D. Simpson of Scranton, Pa.

ERUPTIONS GROWING WORSE.

Terrorism Among People in Vicinity of Mount Colima.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—The military and civil authorities have received dispatches from a number of points situated in the region of the Colima volcano, giving accounts of the terrorism that prevails among the people on account of the active eruption of that volcano, says a dispatch to the Tribune from Guadalajara, Mexico. According to the reports received here from Tuxpan and other towns situated near the volcano, the aspect of the eruption is growing constantly worse. The people are fleeing from the stricken region, and their terror is intensified by the severe earth tremblings which have taken place at frequent intervals since the eruption began.

Construction work on the Manzanillo branch of the Mexican Central Railroad has been suspended on account of the volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. This line is built to Tuxpan within a few miles of the volcano, and a force of men was building tunnels on the finished portion of the line. It is stated that the earthquake shocks have done much damage to these.

GENERAL JOHN B. GORDON TAKEN VIOLENTLY ILL.

Removed from Train on Stretcher—Commander-in-Chief of United Confederate Veterans.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.
Jackson, Miss., Feb. 26.—General John B. Gordon, Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans, was taken violently ill aboard a Queen and Crescent train while en route to this city to-night from Clinton, where he delivered a lecture.

It was necessary to remove him from the train on a stretcher, and he suffered several spells of nausea while being carried to the Lawrence House.

Doctors Hunter and Hughes are now at the bedside and will remain until morning. General Gordon complains of pains in his head and is suffering much agony, which the sedatives administered by the physicians have failed to relieve.

He is still unconscious.

IF POLICE PROTECTED VICE PUNISHMENT IS PROMISED.

Grand Jury's Investigation May Result in Indictment of a Captain, a Sergeant and a Patrolman in Connection With Alleged Grafting Methods.



LOUIS SOVINER.

UNDER INDICTMENT FOR HARBORING IMMORAL WOMEN.
Circuit Attorney Folk believes that the Soviner brothers are refugees from the drive-in Jerome's crusade. They own a saloon at No. 317 North Twelfth street.

KIELY AND DESMOND MAKE A STATEMENT.

Chief of Police Kiely and Chief of Detectives Desmond last night authorized this statement:
"Any officer or person connected with the department whom we find has accepted bribes from immoral women or gamblers must pay the penalty. Any officer who has been negligent will be dealt with rigorously. We will give all the assistance in our power to bring the guilty to justice."

The indictment yesterday of Louis and Max Soviner and Nathan Kreuzer on charges of leasing property for immoral purposes, and Charles, alias "Big Beef," Williams, a negro, for conducting an immoral resort, is expected to be followed to-day by charges against three policemen for alleged neglect of duty.

One Captain, one Sergeant and a patrolman are mentioned particularly in the Grand Jury's investigation of immoral resorts, and startling revelations have been made concerning the existence of immorality in the vicinity of Twelfth, Morgan, Linden and Gay streets.

Circuit Attorney Folk has seen with his own eyes how openly the traffic is carried on, and a member of the Grand Jury, when he heard the statements of witnesses, declared that he never heard of such conditions before.

Chief of Police Kiely conferred with the Circuit Attorney yesterday afternoon for nearly an hour. Circuit Attorney Folk would not discuss the nature of the conference. Chief Kiely declared that he informed Mr. Folk that he could rely on his support to bring all guilty persons to justice.

KIELY MAKES A STATEMENT.

AFTER CONFERENCE WITH FOLK.

"If it can be proven that any policeman, no matter what his rank may be, has been guilty of neglect of duty or grafting," said Chief Kiely, "I shall do all I can to help the Circuit Attorney send him to the Penitentiary."

"Mr. Folk informed me this afternoon that he had no evidence that any policeman had received money for permitting this state of affairs on Twelfth street. As to the reports of alleged neglect of duty I cannot discuss them until I know what the Grand Jury has done in the matter."

"That district of the city for years has been inhabited by immoral women, but I have not known of any such state of affairs as is claimed exists. With 1,300 policemen charged with the duty of keeping the streets clean, there are some among them who are dishonest. This cannot be helped. We might find a similar state of affairs among that many men of any other calling."

"I wish to emphasize my statement that I will lend every assistance to Circuit Attorney Folk in his efforts to bring the guilty persons to justice."

THREE MEN FURNISHED BOND AND SECURE THEIR RELEASE.

Louis and Max Soviner and Williams gave bonds yesterday afternoon for their appearance before Judge Douglas. The bonds were fixed at \$500 in each case. Three indictments were returned against Louis Soviner, two against Max Soviner and one each against Nathan Kreuzer and Williams. Kreuzer has not been arrested.

Benjamin Bernstein, John P. Killoun, Jr., and Herman Bartfield are sureties on the bonds of the two Soviners and Williams. The charges against the two men under indictment are misdemeanors, but other indictments for felony will be returned probably to-day.

The Grand Jury has heard from the witnesses thus far examined startling tales of degradation. They were told that eighty women have been brought to St. Louis for immoral purposes from New York. Most of these women were Russian Jews. They have been charged fabulous prices for the rent of houses in which they live, and the Soviner brothers and Kreuzer have grown rich from their patronage.

SOVINERS FILED TO ST. LOUIS FROM NEW YORK CRUSADE.

The Soviners have been in St. Louis about



MAX SOVINER.

six months. The Grand Jury has evidence that they were run out of New York by the crusade of District Attorney Jerome against immoral resorts, when many of the police of that city were charged with neglect of duty. The brothers have a saloon at No. 317 North Twelfth street.

When Circuit Attorney Folk began to investigate charges of grafting from immoral women by policemen he was informed of the condition of affairs in North Twelfth street. Tuesday he decided to make a personal investigation. He drove through the district in his buggy.

Women past 40 years old, attired in skirts reaching only to their knees; young girls barely in their teens, black and white alike, mingled on the streets and stopped men who passed on the sidewalks. Policemen stood on street corners apparently unmoved.

Circuit Attorney Folk returned to the Four Courts, and at the first opportunity laid the matter before the Grand Jury. Raids were ordered. The police brought in only women from resorts conducted by "Beef" Williams, a negro. These in houses conducted by the Soviners were not touched.

CIRCUIT ATTORNEY ORDERS RAID WHICH PROVES MORE EFFECTIVE.

Then the Circuit Attorney decided to order a raid on his own account. Deputy Sheriff Edward Noonan and Charles Jerahek and Special Officer Stahl from the Circuit Attorney's office were sent out. As a result, the Four Courts holdover is now filled with women, and the houses where the immoral traffic has been carried on are closed, the keepers under indictment and the policemen who allowed the laws to be violated will be indicted to-day.

Twenty of the women testified yesterday. Among them were several who stated that they were employed in factories until representatives of the Soviners came to them, pointed out to them how they could make large sums of money, and induced them to give up their honest labor for lives of shame.

After the Grand Jury had heard these stories they were not long in voting indictments. Bench warrants were issued and again Noonan, Jerahek and Stahl were sent out. When they returned to the Four Courts they had in custody Louis and Max Soviner and "Beef" Williams. Kreuzer could not be found.

Six charges in all will be made against the Soviners, two of which will be felonies and four misdemeanors. The penalty on the felony charges is a sentence of not more than five and not less than two years in the Penitentiary. For the misdemeanors they may be sent to the Workhouse for from two to six months and fined from \$300 to \$500, or both.

POLICEMEN MAY BE FINED AS WELL AS DISMISSED.

The penalty for a policeman found guilty of neglect of duty is a fine of \$300 to \$500, two to six months in the Workhouse and dismissal.

To prevent any interested person getting at the women who will be called before the Grand Jury to-day Circuit Attorney Folk ordered that they be locked up in the hold-over. About twenty-five were held last night. Others will be brought in to-day.

The first information against the Soviners was the complaint of three women two weeks ago that they were induced to give \$18 to Louis Soviner to pay their fines in Police Court after they had been arrested, and that they then found their cases had not been "fixed" and had to pay \$13 more.

The Circuit Attorney has found that women have been lured to St. Louis from New York and other large cities and that agents have been sent out to smaller towns to induce girls to come here to enter these immoral resorts.

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL DRAGGED INTO HOUSE FROM STREET.

Special Officer Stahl has reported to Circuit Attorney Folk that one 14-year-old girl was recently dragged into one of the houses, her street attire torn from her and garments, in which she was ashamed to go on the street, put on her. She was kept there as a prisoner and forced against her will to remain there.

This case will be given special attention by the Grand Jury, and if the guilty persons are found they will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

MRS. KATIE CABELL CURRIE FILES PETITION FOR DIVORCE.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.
Dallas, Tex., Feb. 26.—Among the new suits entered on the docket of the Forty-fourth District Court late this afternoon was "Katie Currie against J. R. Currie, divorce."

As soon as the suit had been filed the papers were withdrawn from the court by an attorney for the plaintiff, who informed Assistant District Clerk Williams that he did not wish newspaper reporters to see them. The attorney gave his receipt to the court.

The plaintiff is the daughter of General W. L. Cabell of Dallas, the noted Confederate veteran. Mrs. Katie Cabell Currie is president of the Texas organization of the Daughters of the Confederacy and a former president of the national organization. She is one of the best-known women in the South.

Mr. Currie is well known in Nicaragua Canal and other Central American enterprises, and spends much of his time in Central America, Washington and New York.

UNSEATING OF BUTLER ATTENDED BY EXCITING SCENES IN CONGRESS.

Filibustering Democrats Denounce Republican Majority for Overriding Them Roughshod.

GAUNTLET IS THROWN DOWN.

De Armond of Missouri Declares the Proceeding to Be the Most Outrageous of Its Kind in History.

"BUTLER'S SEAT WAS STOLEN."

Evidence Was Not Even Read and Decision Was Made in Advance of the Hearing—Only One Hour for Debate.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The Republicans of the House this evening, by a rising vote, passed the resolution ousting James J. Butler and seating George C. R. Wagoner as Representative from the Twelfth Missouri District. The expedition manner in which this was done was without precedent.

The Democrats made a strong fight for the observance of parliamentary decency in such an important matter as this one, affecting, as it does, the membership of the House, but without avail.

While the minority were interposing every possible obstacle, the majority were pressing the matter. When all was ready, at 7 o'clock, Butler was shot out as it was a toboggan.

Never before was a member ejected with such scant courtesy. There was no record vote, and hardly time for stating the question, when Wagoner, who was in waiting, was escorted to the Speaker's desk by Joy and Barthold and sworn in as a member of the Fifty-seventh Congress.

Seats have been declared vacant and members ejected before this, but never in such a manner as this.

The day had been consumed in preliminary matters. Hours were wasted in reading the Journal, in demanding a quorum and similar



JAMES J. BUTLER.

Who denounced the Speaker pro tem, for refusing to permit a division on the question of unseating Butler.

parliamentary moves by the minority in a vain effort to force the Republicans to debate the Wagoner-Butler resolution.

DEMOCRATS HAD ONLY ONE HOUR FOR DISCUSSION.

No time would be conceded, beyond barely enough to make the most hasty and imperfect presentation of the facts in the contest. The Republicans suggested that each side should have an hour, a ridiculously short period for statement and argument of such a case. The Democrats resented this bitterly, and in the short time allowed the minority, Judge De Armond denounced the Republicans in a speech which was applauded to the echo.

Mr. De Armond said:

"The contest was returned by nearly 6,000 majority. In order to seat the contestant, the committee recommends the throwing out of precincts which gave him over 9,000 votes, and gave the contestant something like 2,000 votes."

"The reason given, so far as there is any reason given, for this action is that it is not possible to ascertain what, in these forty-one precincts, was the honest and what the dishonest vote. If that be true it is strange that the committee has not recommended, being unable to ascertain how many honest votes were cast for one candidate or the other, that there be declared no election. Instead of that, inasmuch as the majority of Butler is in these precincts is greater than 6,000, it is deemed expedient to throw them all out and figure up 700 majority for Wagoner."

ONLY HONEST CONCLUSION WAS TO DECLARE NO ELECTION.

"I submit upon the theory of their own contention that nothing can be done honestly in a case where you cannot determine what are the honest votes, beyond declaring that there is no election."

"But what reason is there for concluding that you cannot determine the honest votes in this case? There is no offer to show that fraudulent votes were cast or that honest voters were denied an opportunity to vote."

"Discrepancies are found in these various precincts, in the number of votes alleged to have been cast, and the number of votes returned for this candidate or that candidate, sometimes considerable discrepancies, sometimes very small discrepancies and in some instances a few votes."

"Then, instead of assuming or indulging in the burning supposition that errors may have occurred through the lack of skill or

Continued on Page Two.